



AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
5 WEST STREET
AUBURN, MA 01501
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School Committee
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Vice Chairperson

Members:
Gail Holloway
Dorothy Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

August 23, 2019

Sean R. Cronin
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services
Division of Local Services
PO Box 9569
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Cronin,

Attached please find the Best Practices Preschool Collaboration Grant update from the Auburn Public Schools. As you can see, of the original \$14,500 grant, all but has been spent. On behalf of Auburn's preschool providers, I thank you sincerely for these funds. As indicated throughout the attached, these funds have made a lasting impact on preschool education in Auburn.

Thank you again for these funds and your tremendous support.

Sincerely,

Maryellen Brunelle, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Ms. Julie Jacobson, Town Manager
Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland, Assistant Superintendent

AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - Best Practices Preschool Collaboration Grant - \$14,500

UPDATE: August 2019

Below please find an update regarding the Best Practice Preschool Collaboration Grant and progress made to date.

We would be happy to provide additional detail, as requested, and thank you again for your financial support and guidance. As intended, collaborations are being nurtured and we look forward to maintaining these relationships as we move forward together.

Six-Part Training Series on Early Education

Cost: \$9,000

Secure expert practitioners in the field of early education to provide training on early literacy and other pertinent topics, at six sessions held in the evening and/or on Saturdays, to teachers and providers of public and private pre-school programs.

September 2017 Update:

At our initial meeting of the Best Practices Grant Team on May 3, 2017, attendees discussed ideas for high quality training opportunities, agreeing that an early literacy training would be beneficial for all. A future topic that all agreed should be pursued will focus on social-emotional learning and supports, so that will be addressed moving forward. The next meeting of the Best Practices Grant Team will be held on September 27, 2017.

Dr. Kathleen Lauzé, Assistant Superintendent for the Auburn Public Schools, has arranged a high-quality professional training opportunity as described below. This Early Literacy PD, provided by Keys to Literacy, will be held on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will include staff from Auburn's Integrated Preschool program and the following private preschools: Here We Grow; Children's Corner; Pakachoag Acres; Bethel Preschool Program; Jack and Jill Preschool; Montessori Children's House; The Discovery House Mighty Oaks Montessori; and The Goddard School. This 15-hour early childhood workshop will explore best practices in literacy instruction in preschool classrooms. Current research and Massachusetts Literacy Standards will guide discussions around curriculum, assessment and instruction. Topics will include the relationship of language and literacy development, 5 components of reading, supporting emergent writers, gradual release of responsibility model, planning intentional literacy activities within centers and the importance of read aloud to enhance comprehension and promote vocabulary development. We anticipate that there will be approximately 30-40 staff members in attendance. The cost of this training program is \$9,900 and will be paid, in part, by the Auburn Public Schools to supplement the \$9,000 in grant funds.

The training dates are October 11, November 8, December 13, 2017; January 10; March 14; and April 11, 2018.

COMPLETED

Semi-Annual Cultural Programs

Cost: \$ 3,250

Provide two cultural programs (such as a puppet show, author/storyteller or fine arts program) during the year in the evening or on weekends for the parents and children of all 3 and 4 year olds in Auburn, including those in private programs, day cares and Auburn preschoolers, to bring them together with school administration, kindergarten teachers and/or elementary school principals to get to know one another.

September 2017 Update:

Through a collaboration with Auburn's CFCE coordinator for the YMCA of Central Massachusetts, Beth Gailor, the program titled, "DW Counts Down to Kindergarten" was offered – free of charge – to Auburn's preschool children and families on Saturday, June 17th at 11:00 a.m. at Auburn Middle School. At the meeting of September 27th, attendees intend to report out on ideas for cultural programs, the goal being to host two this school year, either in the early evening or likely on weekends.

August 2018 Update

The following cultural programs were held, with large crowds of preschool children and their families in attendance at each:

- Kosmic Kelly, November 12, 2017
- Pumpernickel Puppets, January 21, 2018
- Mr. Kim, March 25, 2018
- DW Goes to Kindergarten, May 30, 2018

Kindergarten Transition Program

Cost: \$ 2,250

In the summer prior to kindergarten, invite select students to attend a special 2-week transition program to help prepare them for "life as a kindergartener." Students would be selected based on screening results which indicate potential challenge areas. This would be an expansion of a pilot program offered in the summer of 2016 that was held for 2 weeks at 2.5 hours per day and included rich early learning experiences which assisted them in being better prepared for their kindergarten experience.

September 2017 Update:

Title I funds supported this program in the Summer of 2017, therefore the Best Practices grant funds will be utilized to support this expanded opportunity in the Summer of 2018. We anticipate that the full amount of \$2,250 will be expended by August 2018, with the school department budget assuming this cost moving forward, if Title I funds are not available to do so.

August 2018 Update

Due to the availability of Title I funds in the Summer of 2018, we have a balance of \$1,735 in the Contractual Services line.

I respectfully request that we be allowed to spend the remaining balance of \$1,735 by June 30, 2019, the goal being to use these funds for additional cultural and training programs between October 2018 and June 2019.

Perhaps most impactful is the relationship that has developed between numerous Preschool providers in Auburn. Since receipt of this grant funding, multiple meetings have been held, with the venue of each changing so that we could visit the various Preschool programs in Auburn; please see the meeting dates and locations noted below, along with copies of agendas from each. Additionally, at our meeting in May, we all agreed that these meetings have been extremely beneficial and will continue into the future, with us meeting on a quarterly basis to share ideas and work to strengthen the support for our young children.

Wednesday September 27, 2017; 3:45-4:45 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; AHS Preschool Classroom
Wednesday, October 25, 2017; 3:45-4:45 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; Here We Grow Preschool
Monday, January 22, 2018; 3:45-4:45 p.m. Best Practices Team Meeting; Pakachoag Acres Day Care Center
Monday, May 19, 2018; 4:00-5:00 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; Jack & Jill Preschool
Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 3:45-4:45 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; Pakachoag Preschool Classroom

August 2019 Update

The Kindergarten Transition program was held again in the Summer of 2019, with approximately 30 selected students participating in this three-week program. Since this program's inception in 2017, teachers and administrators report its benefit to these young children as they transition to a kindergarten learning environment.

COMPLETED

The following cultural program was held with a large crowd of preschool children and their families in attendance at each:

- Tanglewood Marionettes present The Fairy Circus, Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Pakachoag School

COMPLETED

Additionally, more trainings were coordinated and made available, free of charge, to the preschool providers in Auburn:

- Environments Matter!
- Best Practices in Educating Diverse Learners
- Explode Language
- Growing Relationships

COMPLETED

Finally, we continued our meetings and agreed that we would do so again in the 2019-2020 school year, believing that they have brought great value to our Preschool Team:

- Wednesday, October, 10, 2018; 4:00-5:00 p.m., Best Practices Preschool Team; APS Preschool at Auburn High
- Tuesday, October 30, 2018, 4:00-5:00 p.m., Best Practices Preschool Team; Mighty Oaks Montessori School
- Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 4:00-5:00 p.m., Best Practices Preschool Team; AHS Conference Room
- Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 4:00-5:00 p.m., Best Practices Preschool Team; AHS Conference Room

Despite the end to these grant funds, at our final meeting in April 2019, we agreed that these meetings have brought value to our team and we intend to continue them, as well as sharing resources, coordinating trainings and inviting all to any upcoming cultural programs that may be planned.

Thank you very much for your support and for this funding!

TANGLEWOOD MARIONETTES

PRESENTS:

THE FAIRY CIRCUS



Peter Schaefer through humorous interplay will demonstrate various forms of puppets, from the single glove puppet to the sophisticated marionette. The puppets will dance, play instruments, juggle, contort, transform and fly through the air with the greatest of ease to music of favorite composers.

Please Join Us for this Free Event

*(Funding is through a Best Practices Grant supported by
MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education)*

This show will be geared towards preschoolers, however siblings are welcome to join in the fun. No registration required.

**Place: Pakachoag Elementary School
110 Pakachoag Street, Auburn, MA**

Date: Saturday, March 9, 2019

Time: 10:00 AM



Auburn Public Schools
Early Childhood Professional Development Series
Auburn Middle School Media Center

Please join us for one, two, three or all four workshops by emailing Kate at kflynn@auburn.k12.ma.us at least 2 weeks prior to the class.

Wednesday – February 27, 2019
Erin Fournier – The Fitzgerald Institute

6:30pm – 8:30pm

ENVIRONMENTS MATTER!

It is time we expand our thinking beyond the traditional concept of classroom design. We must embrace a vision that transforms our spaces from commercial settings to ones that enrich full potential. While safety and teaching competence are important, we must consider that this may become a child's home away from home. This session shares a vision of what is possible so the environment becomes a place that nurtures the logical, imaginative, analytical and creative mind.

Wednesday - March 20, 2019
Cathy Salerno

6:30pm – 8:30pm

BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATING DIVERSE LEARNERS

In this presentation, participants will be trained in strategies for effective schooling for children with disabilities. It will explore teaching strategies and accommodations for students with diverse learning styles. They will include Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Specific Learning Disabilities, Sensory Disabilities, Universal Design for Learning, and Assistive Technology methods to best reach the diverse learning styles of our students.

Wednesday - April 24, 2019
Marcela Simpson – Innovative Foundations

6:30pm – 8:30pm

EXPLODE LANGUAGE

Children are highly responsive to the quality and quantity of the languages in their environments. Therefore, programs must ensure that all children experience high-quality instruction and language modeling through the activities offered during the day. Join us on this professional development opportunity to learn strategies on how to promote language modeling and achieve better child outcomes.

Wednesday – May 22, 2019
Dr. Richard Hummel – Community Healthlink

6:30pm – 8:30pm

GROWING RELATIONSHIPS

Many families in our country struggle with the challenges of maintaining positive child care and family life while facing the strains of work, finances and other competing obligations. Many young children enter the school settings presenting challenges in their relationships, ability to accommodate structure or routines, and discipline. This workshop will present strategies for teachers and allied staff to build stronger core relationships in their students, while helping children internalize helpful structure/routines and personal discipline.



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PRESCHOOL BEST PRACTICES GRANT TEAM

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Auburn Public Schools' Preschool at Auburn High School, 99 Auburn Street

AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Update on the Best Practices Grant
- III. Spring Into Kindergarten Update and Kindergarten Transition Program Update
 - a. Jenn Stanick and Beth Chamberland
- IV. Future Topics
 - a. Professional Development
 - b. Cultural Programs
 - c. Other Ideas?
- V. Tour of APS Preschool at Auburn High School
- VI. Upcoming Meeting Date and Location: Wednesday, November 28th?
- VII. Other

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION – EARLY EDUCATION

Best Practices: There is evidence of partnerships with private providers in the provision of high quality early education and out of school time services to leverage existing resources, avoid duplication of services and enhance and streamline systems for children and families. The community can demonstrate local adoption of a framework to organize, align and integrate community efforts in early education and care, out of school time services, and family engagement.

Initiative - Total Cost \$14,500

Scope - A three-tiered approach consisting of initiatives aimed at strengthening the transition to kindergarten and enhancing the provision of early childhood education to better prepare children for entering school.

Six-Part Training Series on Early Education have District funds to support as this is a priority area)

Balance: \$500 (but we may

Secure expert practitioners in the field of early education to provide training on early literacy and other pertinent topics, at six sessions held in the evening and/or on Saturdays, to teachers and providers of public and private pre-school programs.

Semi-Annual Cultural Programs

Balance: \$1,235

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Kindergarten Transition Program

Balance \$0

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PRESCHOOL BEST PRACTICES GRANT TEAM
Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
Mighty Oaks Montessori School, 203 Pakachoag Street

AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Sharing Ideas for:
 - a. Professional Development / Trainings for Staff
 - b. Cultural Programs for Children
 - c. Other Ideas?
- III. Tour of Mighty Oaks Montessori School
- IV. Next Meeting Date and Location: ?
- V. Other

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION – EARLY EDUCATION

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Kindergarten Transition Program

Balance \$0

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Meghan McCrillis

PRESCHOOL BEST PRACTICES GRANT TEAM
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Auburn High School Conference Room, 99 Auburn Street

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Updates regarding:
 - a. Trainings for Staff
 - i. Directors' Trainings
 - ii. Best Practices Grant Trainings
 - b. Cultural Programs for Children
 - i. Kathy to provide an update
 - c. Other Ideas?
- III. Upcoming: Preschool and Kindergarten Registration
 - a. February 6, 2019, 3:00-7:00 p.m., AHS Presentation Room
 - b. Preschool Screening, March 14, 2019, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
 - c. PAK Kindergarten Screening, April 8, 2019
 - d. BM Kindergarten Screening, April 10, 2019
- IV. Next Meeting Date and Location: ?
- V. Other

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Balance: \$1,235

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Our vision is to educate and prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of a changing world.



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PRESCHOOL BEST PRACTICES GRANT TEAM
Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Auburn High School Conference Room, 99 Auburn Street

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Updates regarding:
 - a. Trainings for Staff - Kathy
 - i. Explode Language, 4/24/19
 - ii. Growing Relationships, 5/22/19
 - b. Cultural Programs for Children
 - i. Funds have been depleted
 - ii. Should we still consider one for incoming K students?
 1. If so, ideas?
 - c. Other Ideas?
- III. Grant Ends in June 2019
 - a. Beneficial for Ongoing Collaboration?
- IV. Next Meeting Date and Location: ?
- V. Other

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION – EARLY EDUCATION

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